

Message Text

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SUBJ: ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: WATER POLLUTION WORKING GROUP

MEETING IN MOSCOW

1. FIRST SESSION OF THE US- USSR JOINT WORKING GROUP ON
COOPERATION IN WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION HELD IN MOSCOW
MARCH 20-23 AND ON LATTER DATE AGREED UPON NUMBER OF
SPECIFIC COOPERATIVE MEASURES IN WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
TO BE CONDUCTED UNDER US- SOVIET ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT.

2. SEVEN- MEMBER US DELEGATION LED BY DR. JOHN BUCKLEY,
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICER OF RESEARCH, EPA. SOVIET DELEGATION
HEADED BY B. G. SHTEPANOV, DEPUTY MINISTER, USSR MINISTRY OF
LAND RECLAMATION AND WATER MANAGEMENT.

3. AT CONCLUSION MEETINGS, THE TWO DELEGATIONS SIGNED
MINUTES DELINEATING SPECIFIC COOPERATIVE PROJECTS IN EACH
OF THE FOUR AREAS OUTLINED IN SEPTEMBER 21, 1972 IMPLEMENTATION
AGREEMENT. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOINT PROGRAM INCLUDE:

A. AGREEMENT ON COOPERATIVE MEASURES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT WATER POLLUTION CONTROL STRATEGIES FOR INTENSIVELY
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DEVELOPED RIVER BASINS. PROGRAM WILL CENTER ON THE MOSKVA AND SEVERSKY DONETS RIVERS IN THE USSR AND DELAWARE AND OTHER RIVERS TO BE DESIGNATED IN THE U. S. THE SOVIET RIVERS WERE DESIGNATED DURING WORKING GROUP MEETING WHILE DELAWARE WAS NAMED LAST SEPTEMBER.

TWO- PART PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANS, CONSISTENT WITH APPLICABLE LAWS, FOR THE DESIGNATED RIVERS IN EACH NATION AND A COMPARATIVE EVALUATION OF COSTS OF ACHIEVING SPECIFIED WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES. PROGRAM WILL ENCOMPASS RIVERS BASIN PLANNING, MODELLING, AND MONITORING TECHNIQUES.

UNDER PROGRAM SOVIET TEAM WILL VISIT U. S. IN SUMMER 1973 TO DEVELOP PROGRAM FOR THE RIVER BASIN PLANS TO BE DEVELOPED IN EACH NATION. ON 1974 PLANNING EFFORTS WILL BE CARRIED OUT WITH EXCHANGES OF VISITS AS APPROPRIATE. IN THIRD QUATER OF 1975 SYMPOSIU WILL BE HELD IN THE USSR TO EVALUATE RESULTS OF PLANS AND COMPARATIVE COST EVALUATION.

B. AGREEMENT FOR EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION AND VISITS BY U. S. AND SOVIET SCIENTISTS DIRECTED AT PROTECTING LAKE BAIKAL IN THE USSR AND GREAT LAKES WHICH TOGETHER CONTAIN NEARLY 40 PERCENT OF WORLD'S LAKE POWER.

JOINT PROGRAM WILL ALSO CONSIDER LAKE TAHOE IN WESTERN U. S., WHICH SHARES THE BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF LAKES BAIKAL AND SUPERIOR.

AS FIRST STOP, U. S. SCIENTISTS WILL VISIT LAKE BAIKAL IN AUGUST 1973. VISIT BY SOVIET SCIENTISTS TO GREAT LAKES AND ALSO TAHOE IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 1974. OBJECTIVE OF EXCHANGE IS TO IMPROVE METHODS OF LAKE ANALYSIS AND DATA ANALYSIS, AND TO ENHANCE SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTADNING NEEDED FOR MANAGEMENT DECISIONS.

C. AGREED ON ACTIVITES FOR PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF WASTE DISCHARGED THROUGH INFORHATION EXCHANGES TO BE AC- COMLISHED BY AUGUST- OCTOBER 1973, IN AREAS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO EACH COUNTRY. EXCHANGE WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY VISIT TO USSR IN DECEMBER 1973 BY U. S. TECHNICAL EXPERTS IN EACH OF THESE AREAS. VISIT WILL INCLUDE SITE VISITS AND JOINT CONFERENCES TO ESTABLISH MORE SPECIFIC PROJECTS FOR COL- LABORATIVE WORK. SOVIET EXPERTS WILL VISIT THE U. S. IN 1974. DURING BOTH OF THE PLANNED VISITS, SPECIFIC CONTROL TECHNOLOGIES OF INTEREST TO THE VISITING DELEGATIONS WILL

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BE SHOWN.

DURING WORKING GROUP DISCUSSION SOVIET DELEGATES EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN (A) ADVANCED WASTE TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE OIL REFINERY AND PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRIES, ESPECIALLY IN THOSE THAT INVOLVE EXTENSIVE RECYCLING AND RE - USE OF WASTE WATER; (B) CONTINUOUS AUTOMATED MONITORING EQUIPMENT AND PROCEDURE; AND (C) METHODS OF MATHEMATICAL MODELING AND PLANNING BASED UPON USE OF MODELS.

U. S. DELEGATES PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN INVESTIGATING EXTENSIVE SOVIET EXPERIENCE IN USE OF SEWAGE EFFLUENT AND SEWAGE SLUDGE FOR LAND RECLAMATION, AND IN SOVIET TOXICOLOGY DATA TO SUPPLEMENT U. S. KNOWLEDGE THIS FIELD.

D. AGREEMENT ON EXCHANGE OF LITERATURE ON METHODS FOR ESTABLISHING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AND CONCERNING SYMPOSIUM IN SUMMER 1974 ON SUBJECT. LITERATURE TO BE RECEIVED BY THE U. S. EXPECTED AUGMENT DATA BASE NOW AVAILABLE FOR ESTABLISHING STANDARDS AND THEREFORE WILL BE OF DIRECT BENEFIT IN IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS OF U. S. LAW FOR CONTROLLING THE DISCHARGE OF POLLUTING SUBSTANCES.

WORKING GROUP AGREED TO HOLD ITS SECOND SESSION IN WASHINGTON DURING THE SPRING OF 1974. DURING STAY IN MOSCOW USDEL ALSO VISITED WASTE WATER TREATMENT AND AERATION PLANTS AND THE LIKHACHEV AUTOMOBILE PLANT IN MOSCOW AND NUMBER OF CULTURAL SITES.

CONTINUOUS HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION AND POSITIVE AND COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE OF SOVDEL, PARTICULARLY, SHTEPKA, THROUGH FOUR- DAY MEETINGS LED USDEL TO CONCLUDE THAT SOVIET ARE PLACING HIGH PRIORITY AND HOPES ON SUCCESS OF WATER POLLUTION GROUP EFFORTS. PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT SIGNING CEREMONY DREW CORRESPONDENTS FROM NY TIMES, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, AP AND UPI AND BUCKLEY LATER INTERVIEWED BY RADIO MOSCOW, SOVIET LIFE MAGAZINE AND GROUP W/ NEWS. USDEL EXPRESSED ENTHUSIASM THAT WATER AREA OF ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT IS OFF TO MOST FAVORABLE START.

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